

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect Americans, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections. The major media outlets have consistently spewed misinformation about perhaps the greatest crook and liar in our public life today: the Liar-in-Chief, George W. Bush.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest in an honest and forthright manner, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local and national civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us. I do wonder, after reading much about your handling of the FCC, just how dedicated to a fair and reasonable treatment of the news you are truly interested in providing. My friends and I will be attentive to the next several weeks of programming. I would like to believe that you will prove to be an honorable and reliable Chairman.

Sincerely,

Robert Warye
406 Parkovash Ave
South Bend, IN 466171030